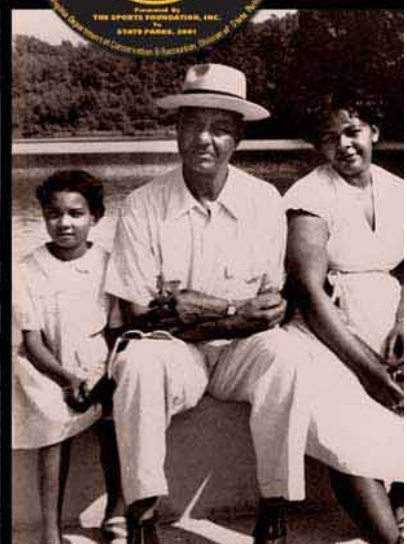


Explore the American Experience

# Virginia State Parks

Celebrating 400 years of history and nature



Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation



# Governor's Message



## At a Glance



Throughout 2007, the country and the world turn their attention to Virginia, as we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of English-speaking America and the settlement of Jamestown. The commemoration begins at First Landing State Park then spreads across the Commonwealth.

Our award-winning state park system offers special programs showcasing the anniversary from a variety of perspectives. Take time to learn what Virginia's environment looked

like 400 years ago when British settlers arrived, discover a replica Native American village, or explore a recreated 18th century frontier settlement. You can travel through four centuries of historic sites, sounds and stories across Virginia's 34 state parks.

Now is a great time to visit a state park. You'll find new cabins, campgrounds, family lodges, visitor centers and other new offerings; all part of our multi-million dollar, five-year facelift.

From the Cumberland Gap to the Atlantic Ocean, from the Shenandoah Valley to the Chesapeake Bay, Virginia State Parks are an important part of a healthy lifestyle. With nearly 500 miles of trails, and a wide range of fun and educational activities, workshops, concerts, festivals, programs and natural wonders, you'll never run out of ways to discover Virginia.

State parks also are a perfect way to preserve and protect land for the future. Conserving our open space today as parks and natural areas allows our grandchildren the opportunity to enjoy the same views, swim in the same clean water, and hike the same trails that make our Commonwealth so special.

My family and I have enjoyed Virginia State Parks for many years. Please accept my personal invitation to visit Virginia's award-winning state parks during this special time in our nation's history. With everything that's going on, there's never been a better time to visit a Virginia State Park.

—Tim Kaine  
Governor of Virginia

### Celebrating 400 Years of the Virginia Experience

Throughout the year, Virginia State Parks will commemorate the beginning of our nation and the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown.

But don't forget, our parks offer a variety of programs, events and activities that allow you to explore nature and history every day of the year. Our 34 state parks offer trails, beaches, scenic picnic spots, interpretive programs, visitor centers, museums, gift shops and more to make your visit special. With so much to see and do, Virginia State Parks are perfect for a short, relaxing picnic or a two-week vacation. The comfortable cabins and lodges, clean campgrounds and convenient meeting facilities ensure that your park experience doesn't have to end at sundown.

### New and Improved!

When you visit a Virginia State Park this year, you may notice new facilities or ongoing construction projects. Thanks to passage of the 2002 Commonwealth of Virginia Parks and Natural Areas General Obligation Bond, state parks are getting a facelift.

The bonds enable us to purchase land for new state parks and natural area preserves and additional land for existing parks and natural areas. It also allows us to make a wide assortment of improvements and repairs across all 34 state parks. From new cabins, family lodges and campgrounds to better road and water systems, we're growing to make your visit even better.

### Trails

More than 600 miles of trails of varying difficulty crisscross Virginia's state parks, giving hikers a chance to explore hardwood forests, coastal marshes and flowering meadows. Self-guided trails introduce visitors to the natural and cultural history of each area while informational markers supply interesting and educational information. Horseback riders and bicyclists will find miles of bridle and bike trails in state parks all across Virginia.

### Boating and Fishing

Virginia State Parks offer access to the state's four largest lakes as well as most major rivers, the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean. Smaller, man-made lakes in a number of parks are known for healthy populations of smallmouth bass, trout, crappie and bream. At Douthat Lake, anglers can fish for stocked trout for a daily fee.

A Virginia fishing license is required to fish in most state park waters. Annual boat launch passes are available and offer significant savings to frequent visitors with boats.

### Hunting

Open hunting is usually offered in designated areas of Fairy Stone, Grayson Highlands, Hungry Mother, Occaneechee and Pocahontas state parks. Special resource management hunts are held in Belle Isle, Caledon, Chippokes Plantation, Claytor Lake, Douthat, False Cape, Grayson Highlands, James



River, Kiptopeke, Mason Neck, Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River, Smith Mountain Lake and York River state parks. State park cabins and campgrounds make excellent base camps for hunting in nearby wildlife management areas and state and national forests.

## Swimming

A relaxing dip in our lakes and pools is a favorite summer activity for the young and the young at heart. Swimming beaches and pools at 16 state parks, complemented by sunbathing areas, clean bathhouses and concession facilities, are generally open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. All overnight guests have free swimming privileges, except group cabin visitors at Pocahontas State Park. A small fee is charged to day visitors. Season passes and discounted swimming tickets offer significant savings for frequent visitors.

## Picnicking

From an impromptu picnic to a special occasion, all parks have picnic tables and grills for outdoor dining. Picnic shelters and gazebos are available at most parks for any outdoor gathering. Shelter rental reservations can be made by calling the Reservation Center at 800-933-9275. When not reserved, most shelters are available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis, year-round.

## Camping and Cabins

Camping facilities are available in 25 parks, and 18 parks have cabins. Overnight accommodations are perfect for family vacations, hunting and fishing trips and memorable weekend getaways.

Virginia State Parks offer everything from primitive canoe or hike-in campgrounds to modern RV sites. Contact the Reservation Center for specific information.

## Environmental Education and Youth Programs

Virginia State Parks are the Commonwealth's premiere environmental education locations. Schools, scouts, other civic groups and individuals are encouraged to come learn more about their great outdoors. Backyard Classroom programs, incorporating Virginia's Standards of Learning, promote lifelong learning about Virginia's environment, natural wonders and historic treasures. They also help young people develop an enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of Virginia's great outdoors.

The Virginia State Parks Youth Conservation Corps offers a unique three-week public service program in the summer.

False Cape State Park's Wash Woods Environmental Education Center offers overnight facilities for schools and groups of up to 26 interested in coastal barrier spit ecosystems or the cultural history of Virginia's Outer Banks.

Natural Tunnel's Cove Ridge Center has overnight accommodations for up to 48 guests or students interested in studying Southwest Virginia's ecology, its unique karst topography and the region's rich cultural history.

## Natural and Cultural History

Virginia State Parks are more than beautiful; they're educational, too. Visitor centers at nearly two dozen parks help guests learn about the natural and cultural history of the region and the Commonwealth.

Several parks feature painstakingly-restored centuries-old buildings now open to the public. Tour an Antebellum mansion at Chippokes Plantation State Park, a 19th century farmhouse at Sky Meadows State Park or visit an 1890s Victorian mansion at the Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park in Big Stone Gap. Witness a Civil War reenactment at Leesylvania, Sailor's Creek Battlefield or Staunton River Battlefield state parks. Discover Virginia's frontier heritage at an authentically recreated 1770s fort at Wilderness Road State Park. Learn about the operations of a historic shot tower and visit the century-old mining town of Foster Falls at New River Trail State Park, or tour a 1880s gold mine at Lake Anna State Park.

A trip to a Virginia State Park is an opportunity to observe wildlife in diverse habitats, and all parks are part of the new Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail.

Throughout the spring, summer and fall, most parks offer a wide variety of nature and history programs for the whole family.

## Outdoor Adventures Programs

Learn to take wildlife photographs. Hone your skills at a fly-fishing school. Pan for gold or learn to backpack like the experts. Many state parks offer special programs and classes that help participants better understand, appreciate and enjoy the outdoors.

Planning outdoor fun and activities in the Commonwealth is easier with the annual *Virginia State Parks Outdoor Adventures Guide and Calendar*, which introduces visitors to exciting outdoor activities across Virginia.

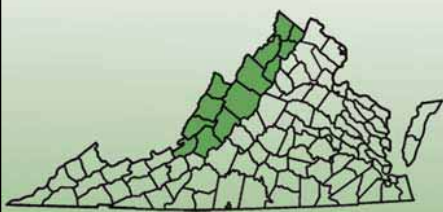
The programs, festivals, concerts and activities represent the best Virginia State Parks have to offer. From traditional outdoor activities like canoeing, fishing clinics or night hikes, to arts and crafts festivals and bluegrass concerts, visitors will always find something to do in a Virginia State Park. Fees are charged for some special programs, while others are free of charge.

The guide is available at Virginia Welcome Centers, local visitor centers, Virginia State Parks, or by calling 800-933-PARK. Up to the minute, comprehensive information is also available at [www.dcr.virginia.gov](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov).

## Civilian Conservation Corps

Between 1933 and 1941, the Civilian Conservation Corps left an indelible imprint on the nation's landscape. The CCC planted trees, improved beaches and roads, and created 800 state parks, including 10 in Virginia. The parks built by the CCC are noted with a special logo in this publication, and the logo is displayed on historic buildings in the parks. The CCC museum at Pocahontas State Park celebrates the achievements of the dedicated young men who served in the CCC.





# Shenandoah Valley



Douthat State Park



Sky Meadows State Park



Staunton River State Park

## Douthat State Park



A traditional family park for more than 60 years, Douthat is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the role its design played in the development of parks nationwide.

Amid some of Virginia's most breathtaking mountain scenery, visitors can enjoy interpretive programs, two miles of stream fishing, a 50-acre lake stocked with trout, a sandy swimming beach with snack bar, boat and bicycle rentals, a gift shop and camp store, cabins, more than 40 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails, an amphitheater, playgrounds, picnic areas, tent and trailer camping, and a restaurant overlooking the lake.

The park also features two completely furnished lodges that accommodate 15 and 18 guests each.

**Special Events:** Lake Run Car Show, Arts and Crafts Fair, Apple Day — A Celebration of Appalachian Heritage.  
**Location:** Northeast of Clifton Forge. Interstate 64 to exit 27, to State Route 629, then 5 miles north.

## Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River State Park

Situated on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River with more than 1,600 acres along 5.2 miles of shoreline, the park opened in May 1999. A large riverside picnic area with shelters, trails, river access, a scenic overlook and a car-top boat launch make this a popular destination for families, anglers and canoeists. Ten primitive riverfront campsites and a group campground are available along with a new full-

service bathhouse. With more than 15 miles of trails, the park has plenty of options for hiking, biking and horseback riding, including seasonal guided trail rides.

The Indian Hollow Horse Livery operates April 1 - Oct. 31.

**Location:** Warren County, just off U.S. 340 between Front Royal and Luray. Portions of the park border U.S. 340 on the east and the South Fork of the Shenandoah River on the west.

## Sky Meadows State Park

Rich in history, this 1,862-acre park has scenic vistas, rolling pastures and woodlands. Look into a bygone era by touring the Mount Bleak House and see how a middle-class farm family of the 1860s lived. Nature and history programs are offered during the spring, summer and fall. Hiking, picnicking, fishing, guided trail rides, and primitive hike-in camping for families and groups are favorite activities in this peaceful getaway on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The park offers six miles of bridle trails and 14 miles of hiking trails, which access the Appalachian Trail.

**Special Events:** Strawberry Festival in May, Family Farm Fest weekends in October, a Country Christmas beginning in November after Thanksgiving.

**Location:** 2 miles south of Paris. Take U.S. 50 to State Route 17 south, or from I-66 take State Route 17 north at exit 23. The park entrance is at State Route 710 west.



# Tidewater and Eastern Shore

## Belle Isle State Park

With 733 acres, seven miles of shoreline on the Northern Neck's Rappahannock River, and access to Mulberry and Deep creeks, Belle Isle lets visitors explore a wide variety of tidal wetlands interspersed with agricultural fields and upland forests.

Belle Isle has three picnic shelters, hiking, biking and bridle trails, motor boat and car-top launch and overnight lodging at the Bel Air Mansion and the Bel Air Guest House. The park also offers bicycle, canoe and motorboat rentals, a universal access playground, boardwalk and fishing pier and educational programs. The Bel Air historic area is ideal for weddings.

**New in 2007:** 30-site campground with water and electric hookups.

**Under Construction:** Visitor center.

**Location:** From Warsaw, take State Route 3 to State Route 354 and then State Route 683 near Litwalton to the park entrance in Lancaster County. From Kilmarnock, take State Route 3, turn left on State Route 201, right on State Route 354 and left at State Route 683.

## Caledon Natural Area

A National Natural Landmark known for its old growth forest and summer home to one of the largest concentrations of American bald eagles on the East Coast, Caledon attracts bird watchers of all ages. To protect the eagles, access to marshes and the Potomac River is limited. However, tours of the eagle habitat are offered seasonally. Forest trails are open year-round. The Boyd's Hole Trail to the Potomac River is open from October through March and a visitor center with bald eagle exhibits, two picnic areas, a picnic shelter and restrooms also are available between May and September.

**Location:** King George County. From east or west, take State Route 3 to State Route 206 east for approximately 7 miles to State Route 218 west for one mile to park entrance.

## Chippokes Plantation State Park

Just across the James River from historic Jamestown, Chippokes Plantation is one of the oldest continually farmed plantations in the country. A working farm since 1619, Chippokes offers both mod-

ern recreational activities as well as opportunities to experience life in a bygone era.

Visitors may tour the historic area with its antebellum mansion and outbuildings, stroll through formal gardens, or view a collection of antique farm and forestry equipment at the Chippokes Farm and Forestry Museum. A campground and three unique overnight cottages allow visitors to stay on the historic grounds. The park has an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a visitor center with a gift shop and opportunities to bike, hike, ride horseback and picnic.

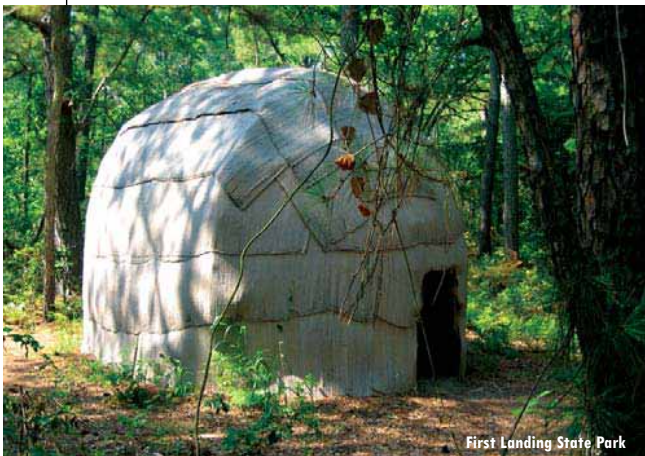
Chippokes Plantation also offers wedding packages and meeting facilities.

Special programs and displays each month commemorate the 400th anniversary of the near-by Jamestown settlement.

**New in 2007:** expanded campground and new camp store at the pool facility.

**Under Construction:** The Craffords Mill Interpretive Area, dedicated to interpreting Surry County's role in the American Revolution.

**Special Events:** Steam and Gas Steam Engine Show in June, Pork, Peanut, and Pine Festival in July, African American



First Landing State Park



Chippokes Plantation State Park



Caledon Natural Area



# Tidewater and Eastern



Kiptopeke State Park



First Landing State Park



False Cape State Park

**Heritage festival in August, Plantation Christmas Craft Festival in October, Christmas Open House in December.**  
**Location:** Access is via State Route 10 in Surry County.

## False Cape State Park


With a rich history, nestled between Back Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, False Cape State Park is one of the few remaining undeveloped areas along the Atlantic Coast. As the site of the former Wash Woods community, summer hunting and fishing grounds for Native Americans, and a location for a Coast Guard life-saving station, False Cape honors the hardy souls who were committed to making a living from the sea.

With a variety of migratory birds and wildlife, the park offers an opportunity to experience nature in a unique setting and features primitive camping, interpretive programs, hiking and biking trails, and a pristine beach. Special 2007 celebration interpretive programs center on the early explorers, the Wash Woods community and life-saving stations.

False Cape is accessible only by foot, bicycle, beach transport, tram or boat. Tram transportation through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge is available April 1 through Oct. 31. Between Nov. 1 and March 31, access to the park is restricted to hiking or biking along the beach, by boat or by the park's beach transporter only. To make reservations for the beach transporter, call 1-800-933-PARK. The park allows no public vehicular access.

**Special Events:** Spring Cleanup in April, Clean the Bay Day in June, Coastal Cleanup in September.  
**Location:** Southeast of Virginia Beach at the south end of Sandbridge. False Cape is Virginia's southernmost park, its southern boundary being the North Carolina line.

## First Landing State Park

 On April 26, 1607, some 100 English settlers from the Virginia Company landed here and established the first elective government in English America before pushing up the James River to establish Jamestown. This historic event is reflected in the name of Virginia's most visited state park.

With more than 19 miles of trails and 1.5 miles of Chesapeake Bay frontage, the park offers recreational and educational activities as well as opportunities to explore unique habitat featuring Bald Cypress trees, lagoons, rare plants and wildlife, and dune ecology. As one of the original six state parks dedicated in 1936, First Landing has a rich Civilian Conservation Corps heritage and is a registered national landmark.

Cabins, full hook-up campsites, picnic areas, boat ramps and a campstore with bicycle rentals are also available. The Chesapeake Bay Center features historic exhibits, educational displays, and a wet lab and aquariums operated by Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center. The outdoor courtyard, pavilion and amphitheater are available to rent for special events and weddings.

**New in 2007:** Replica Indian Village along Cape Henry Trail, Native American exhibits in Trail Center through May 2007.

**Special Events:** A special ticketed event featuring a re-enactment of the first landing of the Virginia Company will take place April 26, 2007.

Special interpretive programs at the replica Indian Village will be held throughout summer of 2007. National Trails Day with guided hikes June 6, Independence Day celebrations July 4, Dog Days of Summer July 15, Fall Festival in October.

**Location:** U.S. 60 at Cape Henry in Virginia Beach.



## Kiptopeke State Park

On Virginia's beautiful Eastern Shore, which was explored by Capt. John Smith in 1608, Kiptopeke offers recreational access to the Chesapeake Bay as well as an opportunity to explore unique migratory bird habitat along the Atlantic flyway.

The park offers RV and tent camping, a group camping lodge, a yurt (part cabin-part tent), camping trailers, a boat ramp, a lighted fishing pier, picnic areas, 4.2 miles of hiking and biking trails, a playground, a beach bathhouse and a swimming beach. Seasonal interpretive and educational programs focus on natural history, birding and bay ecology.

**New in 2007: Six-bedroom family lodges with gas fireplaces.**

**Special Events: Kiptopeke Native American Festival May 26-27, Farm and Fish Expo June 23, Birding Festival in October.**

**Under Construction: Various sections of the park are being restored to forested habitat with grants from U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Nature Conservancy.**

**Location: Eastern Shore. Three miles north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel on U.S. Route 13, then west on State Route 704.**

## Westmoreland State Park

 On the Potomac River's Northern Neck, this park offers many opportunities for family fun – an Olympic-sized swimming pool and adjacent bathhouse, meeting area, snack bar, camp store, launching ramp for power boats, visitor center, campgrounds, camping cabins, cabins, fishing pier, boat rentals and six miles of trails. Fossil collectors enjoy hunting for shark teeth on the Potomac, and birding enthusiasts find the park an excellent site for spotting American bald eagles, ospreys, kingfishers, great blue herons, common terns, green herons and

gulls, as well as wintering waterfowl.

The Potomac River Retreat is an overnight center suitable for extended family reunions and other gatherings of up to 16. Its waterfront location provides docking space at a boathouse. Murphy Hall, atop Horse Head Cliffs, offers superb vistas of the Potomac River. Murphy Hall will soon accommodate up to 65 people for meetings or receptions. Amenities include audiovisual equipment, a warming kitchen for catered events and a break-out room.

**Location: 5 miles northwest of Montross, just off State Route 3.**

## York River State Park

Known for its rare and delicate estuarine environment where freshwater and saltwater meet to create a rich habitat for marine and plant life, this park is on the York River and is designated as a Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. This pristine environment offers clues to a rich natural and cultural history and hosts fossil beds and Native American artifacts.

Programs, activities and visitor center displays focus on the history, use and preservation of the York River and its marshes, as well as wildlife found in the river and the park. More than 25 miles of hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails allow visitors to explore the marsh, river shoreline and forests. A boat ramp, fresh and saltwater fishing spots, a saltwater fishing pier, playgrounds, picnic shelters, and seasonal bike, boat, and recreational equipment rentals are available.

**Special Events: Harvest Day in October, special 1607 commemoration programs.**

**Location: From Interstate 64, exit 231-B. Go north on State Route 607 for 1 mile, then right on State Route 606.**



Kiptopeke State Park

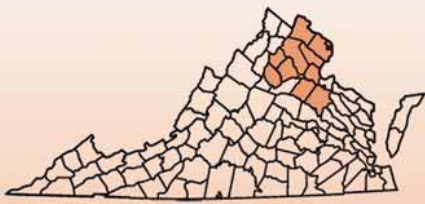


York River State Park



Westmoreland State Park





# Northern Virginia



Lake Anna State Park



Leesylvania State Park

## Lake Anna State Park

The park features a swimming beach on one of Virginia's most popular lakes, a fishing pond accessible to children and people with disabilities, bathhouse-concessions complex, boat launch facilities, pontoon boat rides, picnicking, boat rentals and 10 lake-view, two-bedroom cabins.

With more than 13 miles of trails, the park has plenty of opportunities for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Visitor center exhibits trace the history of gold mining in the area and highlight the park's natural features. Nature programs and panning for gold are popular activities, and the park offers guided tours of the Goodwin Gold Mine. An outdoor environmental education pavilion is available for group use.

**New in 2007: Campground.**

**Location:** Adjacent to State Route 601 off State Route 208; 25 miles southwest of Fredericksburg and 50 miles northwest of Richmond.

## Leesylvania State Park

Nestled along the tidal shores of the Potomac River, where Native Americans camped for thousands of years, the park-land is an area Capt. John Smith visited in 1608 on his voyage of discovery as well as the ancestral home of Virginia's legendary Lee family.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks, Leesylvania offers many land and water activities including hiking, picnicking, fishing and boating. A universally accessible fishing pier, playground, boat launch, boat storage area, snack bar and store, visitor center and gift shop are available.

**Special Events:** Potomac Heritage Day in June, Civil War Weekend in June, Anniversary of the Freestone Battery in September, Multi-Cultural Festival in October, Haunted History Hike in October.

**Location:** In Prince William County, 25 miles south of Washington, D.C. From U.S. 1, take State Route 610 (Neabsco Road) east 2 miles.

## Mason Neck State Park

Just a short drive from Washington, D.C., this Northern Virginia park offers a range of outdoor activities and programs. Hiking trails, a large picnic area, a playground, a car-top canoe launch, an environmental center, and canoe, kayak and bicycle rentals are among the park's features. Bird watching, especially for American bald eagles, and guided canoe trips of Kane's Creek and Belmont Bay are favorites with park visitors. The park's access to wetlands, forest, open water, ponds and open fields make it ideal for environmental study and wildlife observation.

**Special Events:** A Spring Eagle Festival, Summer Bluegrass Days, Old Time Harvest Festival in the fall.


**Location:** 7 miles northeast of Woodbridge. Take U.S. 1, then east on State Route 242 (Gunston Road) for about 4 miles.





# Central Virginia

## Bear Creek Lake State Park

 Nestled in the heart of Cumberland State Forest in central Virginia, Bear Creek Lake is less than an hour west of Richmond and the perfect getaway for an outdoor enthusiast. Activities center on the 40-acre lake with a boat launch, fishing pier, boat rentals and swimming beach, as well as camping, picnicking, playgrounds, hiking and access to a 14-mile multi-use trail in the state forest popular with equestrians.

**New in 2007: Cabins and meeting facility.**

**Location: From U.S. 60 at Cumberland Courthouse, north on State Route 622 and then west on State Route 629.**

## Fairy Stone State Park

 Home of the legendary fairy stones, Fairy Stone is well known for its 168-acre lake adjoining Philpott Reservoir just minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Park attractions include cabins, a campground, group camping, a conference center, a newly renovated lodge that sleeps 16, hiking trails, lake swimming, rowboats, canoes, paddle boats, kayaks, picnicking and two playgrounds, including one in the water.

**Location: Near Martinsville. Access by Route 57 from Bassett or from the Blue Ridge Parkway via Routes 58, 8 and 57.**

## Holliday Lake State Park

 Deep in the heart of Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, Holliday Lake is a paradise for the outdoor enthusiast. Fishing for largemouth bass, crappie and bluegill is popular, and a nearby Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries delayed-harvest trout stream allows anglers to fish for brown and rainbow trout.

Swimming at the park's guarded beach and the "Critter Hole" play area are visitor favorites. Park features include

hiking, biking and equestrian trails, a campground, picnic shelters, interpretive programs, two playgrounds, canoe, rowboat, sit-on-top kayaks, and paddle boat rentals, a seasonal concession stand and giftshop, and a boat ramp.

Holliday Lake is just minutes from the famous Appomattox Court House National Historical Park where Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in 1865.

**Location: Accessible via State Route 24 between Appomattox and U.S. 60 and from state routes 626, 640 and 692.**

## James River State Park

Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the park features 1,500 acres of rolling grasslands, quiet forests and beautiful vistas, as well as three miles of shoreline along the James River. Visitors can hike, bike, canoe, kayak, fish or camp along the banks of the historic James River or scenic Branch Pond.

Facilities include a nature center, gift shop, picnic shelters, multi-use trails, boat launches, campgrounds, equestrian camping, a universally accessible fishing pier and a quarter-mile-long wheelchair accessible trail around Green Hill Pond. James River State Park Outdoor Adventures, a full service canoe livery, provides canoe, kayak, tube and bicycle rentals as well as shuttle services. For more information about the canoe livery call (434) 933-8682.

The park is also a great place to watch bateaux float by during the annual James River Bateau Festival. A replica of a historic bateau is on display near Green Hill Pond.

**New in 2007: Campground, family lodges and cabins.**

**Location: From State Route 60 West in Buckingham County, turn right on State Route 605 at the James River Bridge. Go 7 miles and turn left onto State Route 606.**



Bear Creek Lake State Park



Fairy Stone State Park



Holliday Lake State Park



# Central Virginia

## Occoneechee State Park

Named for Native Americans who lived in the area for hundreds of years, Occoneechee is on the John H. Kerr Reservoir, better known as Buggs Island Lake, and is popular with anglers and boaters. Facilities include cabins, campsites, equestrian camping, picnic shelters, an amphitheater, a playground, boat ramps and a private concession offering fishing and pontoon boat rentals as well as snacks. The park also has a 15-mile round trip (seven-mile linear) multi-purpose trail for hiking, biking and horseback riding.


The visitor center and museum introduce visitors to Native American culture and the indigenous Occoneechee people.

**Special Events:** *Native American Heritage Festival second Saturday in May, Kids Fishing Day first weekend in June, Jazz Festival by the Lake the third weekend in May.*

**New in 2007:** *Cabins, equestrian campground and park office.*

**Location:** *Near Clarksville, 1.5 miles east on U.S. 58 east, just east of the U.S. 15 and 58 intersection.*

## Pocahontas State Park

 Just 20 miles from downtown Richmond, Pocahontas offers boating, picnicking, camping, hiking and a wide range of interpretive and environmental education programs. The Aqua Center offers seasonal water-based activities for the entire family, including a kiddie pool, fountain wet deck, three-foot and five-foot-deep leisure pools, activity pool and two enclosed tube water slides. Rowboat, paddleboat, kayak and canoe rentals also are available at the 200-acre Swift Creek Lake during the summer. The park's two fishing lakes feature crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill and catfish. The park has more than 58 miles of trails throughout 7,724 acres open to hiking, bicycling and horseback riding.

The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum, dedicated to the Depression-era workers who helped build the state park system, is one of a handful in the nation.

The park's Heritage Center is available for meetings, events and seasonal performances. Group facilities with meeting space and primitive overnight cabins also are available.

**New in 2007:** *A new campground.*

**Special Events:** *Pocahontas*

**Amphitheater Performing Arts Series.**

**Location:** *Interstate 95 to State Route 288 north in Chesterfield County, then State Route 10 east to State Route 655 (Beach Road) west. Travel 3 miles; and the park is on the right.*

## Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park

Nearly a quarter of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's army, more than 7,700 men, were killed, wounded or captured on April 6, 1865, at the battle of Sailor's Creek. Lee surrendered his army 72 hours later at Appomattox Court House.

Costumed volunteers assist with various interpretive programs throughout the year. Living history events take place every April during the anniversary of the battle. Contact Twin Lakes State Park for information about interpretive programs. Motorists traveling along Lee's Retreat can learn more about the battle by tuning their radios to AM 1610.

**Location:** *5 miles east of Farmville. Take State Route 307 (the connecting highway between U.S. 360 and U.S. 460 at Farmville) to State Route 617 north and follow the signs.*



Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park



Pocahontas State Park





THROUGHOUT 2007, VIRGINIA STATE PARKS COMMEMORATES THE BEGINNING OF OUR NATION AND THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF JAMESTOWN. STATE PARKS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH OFFER SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES REFLECTING THE UNIQUE ESSENCE OF EACH REGION. JOIN US AS WE COMMEMORATE VIRGINIA'S 400TH ANNIVERSARY, THE SPIRIT OF THOSE EARLY EXPLORERS AND THE SPIRIT OF OUR NATION.

VIRGINIA STATE PARKS ARE GREAT FOR A SHORT, RELAXING PICNIC OR A TWO-WEEK VACATION. WITH NEW CABINS, CAMPGROUNDS AND LODGES ACROSS THE STATE, THERE HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN WHY VIRGINIA HAS ATTRACTED VISITORS FOR MORE THAN 400 YEARS.

*Celebrating 400 Years of the Virginia Experience*





## SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

### STITCH IN TIME QUILT SHOW

Southwest Virginia  
Museum Historical  
State Park  
April 1 - May 31

The museum offers this rare display of more than 150 handmade quilts hand-crafted by local artisans.

These beautiful quilts range from traditional to unique designs; some are more than 100 years old. Fee.

### BATTLE OF SAILOR'S CREEK LIVING HISTORY

Sailors Creek  
Battlefield  
State Park  
April 7-8  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

See history come alive at Sailor's Creek Battlefield as reenactors demonstrate aspects of life in the 19th century. Special guests will speak of events that unfolded at this hallowed place. There also will be tours of the historic Hillsman House. 2007 marks the 142nd anniversary of the decisive Civil War battle that took place here. Fee.

### TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

False Cape  
State Park  
April 14  
5-7 p.m.

Take a tour through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge into False Cape State Park. Learn why colonial travelers called it the False Cape and learn about the history of the park. Experience nature like it was 400 years ago. Fee.

### PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGIES WORKSHOP

Holliday Lake  
State Park  
April 21

Learn how Native Americans made tools for hunting, gathering and storing food, then try making some items yourself. Subjects will range from fire making to basket weaving to flint knapping. In the process, you're sure to gain appreciation for how Native Americans lived and worked in central Virginia. Call the park for more information and to register. Fee.

### JAMESTOWN – THE BEGINNING OF THE ADVENTURE

Wilderness Road  
State Park  
April 23-27  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The nation's foundation cornerstone was laid in 1607 as those first courageous British explorers set foot on the banks of the new world. The men who risked everything for a new life in a new world began an era of exploration and settlement that lasted more than 168 years. That adventure continued in 1775 at Martin's Station in Southwest Virginia. This program is for children grades K-7 and will be presented according to grade level and specific SOLs. To register, please call (276) 445-3065.

## REENACTMENT OF THE FIRST LANDING

First Landing State Park  
April 26-27

Set against the dramatic backdrop of the Chesapeake Bay, a live reenactment featuring costumed actors, the three replica Virginia Company sailing ships and a rowing shallop will take place on the 400th anniversary of the first landing of the Virginia Company. Limited tickets available. Visit First Landing's replica Indian Village and experience life as it was in the Chesapeake Bay area of Virginia before colonists arrived. Featuring a long house and outbuildings, the village was built with help from the local Nansemond tribe using all natural materials. Fee.



### CELEBRATION OF SUMMER FESTIVAL

Claytor Lake  
State Park  
June 9  
10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Visit the park for a festival featuring craft and food vendors, an antique fire truck show, the dedication of a plaque honoring William Christian (brother-in-law of Patrick Henry), and a boat parade on Claytor Lake. Participants will be urged to decorate their motorized boats as colonial ships. Interpretive walks introducing park guests to the historical features of the park will also be offered. Festivities conclude with fireworks. Fee.

### BATEAU LIVING HISTORY EVENT

James River  
State Park  
June 9  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Join the Friends of James River State Park for the dedication of a new bateau. As part of the annual James River Raft Race, the large wooden boat will be manned by a volunteer crew offering a living history experience. Learn what these spectacular boats were used for and the unique history behind their construction. After the dedication the bateau will be on permanent display as part of a cultural history interpretive exhibit at the park.



## CIVIL WAR FASHION SHOW AND TEA PARTY

Staunton River Battlefield State Park

May 52

5 p.m.

Fashion did not die during the war. Visit Mulberry Hill Plantation and see some typical period dress for "keeping up appearances."



## RAID AT MARTIN'S STATION

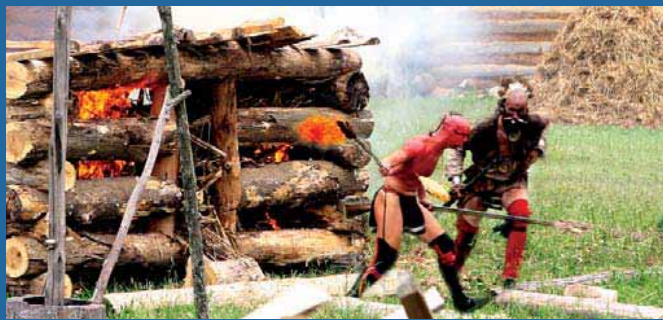
Wilderness Road State Park

May 11-13

Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Join us as we slip into the shadows of Virginia's 1775 wilderness. See and hear history come alive as more than 150 living historians re-enact life at Joseph Martin's frontier fort. Watch as two cultures clash, and the flames of war are once again ignited on Virginia's frontier. The weekend includes a reenactment of Native Americans burning a cabin at Martin's Station, tours of Native American warrior camps and colonial militia camps and 18th century vendors and colonial traders selling their wares. Fee.



## STEVE BASSETT BLOWIN' THE DUST OFF TOUR

Also featuring

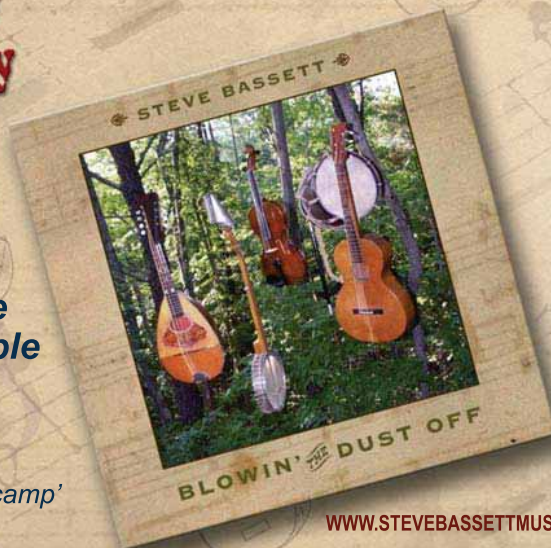
**MICHELLE NIXON & DRIVE**

featuring pre-1900s musical instruments  
during the concert.

**Don't miss  
this musical journey  
of Virginia's history**

**Before the concerts,  
view the historic  
instruments up close  
and hear the incredible  
stories about where  
they've been.**

Special after concert 'pickers camp'  
for campers.



### State Parks Tour Schedule Summer 2007

Natural Tunnel State Park	May 5
Chippokes Plantation State Park	May 12
New River Trail State Park	May 19
Douthat State Park	May 26
Lake Anna State Park	June 2
Claytor Lake State Park	June 8
Staunton River State Park	June 16
Pocahontas State Park	June 30
Belle Isle State Park	July 7
Fairy Stone State Park	July 21
Westmoreland State Park	July 28
Hungry Mother State Park	Aug. 10
Occoneechee State Park	Aug. 18
James River State Park	Aug. 25
Grayson Highlands State Park	Sept. 2
First Landing State Park	Sept. 29

[WWW.STEVEBASSETTMUSIC.COM](http://WWW.STEVEBASSETTMUSIC.COM) [WWW.MICHELLENIXON.COM](http://WWW.MICHELLENIXON.COM)



## SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

### 17TH ANNUAL CHIPPOKES STEAM AND GAS ENGINE SHOW

Chippokes  
Plantation  
State Park  
June 9-10

Explore the world of antique steam engines, gasoline engines, tractors and vehicles. Watch men and women display the power of their engines in old-timey tractor pulls, and enjoy youngsters participating in pedal tractor pulls. Demonstrations include log sawing, plowing and peanut picking. Old-fashioned crafts include blacksmithing to weaving. Enjoy games, activities, vendors, entertainment and a variety of foods. Tram shuttles between the show grounds, the museum and mansion tours are included in the special event admission fee.

### BEFORE 1607 - MELUNGEONS IN THE NEW WORLD

Southwest Virginia  
Museum Historical  
State Park  
June 29-30

The Melungeons, a people of mixed ancestry, are common throughout the southeastern Appalachian Mountains. The mysterious Melungeons have dark, Mediterranean skin, startling blue eyes, European features, and straight, black hair. They were "discovered" by the French in 1690 in the western Carolina mountains. Join us to explore the theories of origins and help unravel the mystery at this Melungeon Heritage Association annual gathering. For more information, visit [www.melungeons.com](http://www.melungeons.com).

### MAGIC IN THE MOUNTAINS: A FESTIVAL OF THE ALLEGHENIES

Douthat State Park  
June 15-23

This fun-filled community event spans an entire week and features a variety of activities throughout Alleghany County. Clifton Forge will feature arts and crafts, antiques, classic automobiles, railroad history, Civil War living history and entertainment the first weekend. Douthat State Park will offer history and nature programs and entertainment throughout the week. For more information, contact the Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce at (540) 962-2178.

### BATTLE OF STAUNTON RIVER BRIDGE CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT

Staunton River  
Battlefield State Park  
June 23  
9 a.m.

Enjoy a Civil War reenactment of the Battle of the Staunton River Bridge where a rag tag band of old men and young boys joined a handful of Confederate soldiers to successfully defended an important supply line against an overwhelming and determined Union force. Fee.

### COME HOME TO WESTMORELAND

Westmoreland  
State Park  
Sept. 15  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Reconnect family roots throughout history by celebrating African-American heritage and culture. Enjoy artisans, ethnic food, educational programs and live music. Fee.

### AFRICAN- AMERICAN FAMILY REUNION

Chippokes Plantation  
State Park  
Aug. 18-19

Take in a cultural heritage festival sponsored by the Westmoreland County Tourism Council. The day includes the Rappahannock American Indian Dancers, the Chantey Singers of the Menhaden Boats, the Kat Face Band, and bluegrass and gospel music. Enjoy food, displays, work from some of Virginia's finest artisans and crafters and much, much more. Fee.



### LAKE ANNA'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Lake Anna State Park  
Sept. 15

Celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Lake Anna State Park and commemorate Virginia's 400th Anniversary. Activities are all day, including music, food, arts and craft vendors. The evening will end with a grand fireworks display. Fee.

### MULBERRY HILL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Staunton River  
Battlefield State Park  
Dec. 1-2  
2-5 p.m.

Visit a 19th century plantation house and discover what Christmas was like during the Civil War.

### A FRONTIER CHRISTMAS

Wilderness Road  
State Park  
Dec. 6-8  
5-7 p.m.

Join us for a festive, yuletide celebration of music, dancing and caroling as the Christmas spirit illuminates the Virginia frontier. Enjoy a candlelit tour of Historic Martin's Station at the height of the yuletide season. Take part in the historic festivities, or just sit back and enjoy a warm fire in a settler's cozy cabin.



# Central Virginia

## Smith Mountain Lake State Park

Located on the second largest freshwater lake in the state, the park is a water enthusiast's paradise. In addition to a full range of water-related activities, including swimming, boat rentals, a boat ramp and a universally accessible fishing pier, families can enjoy picnicking, a visitor center, an amphitheater, special programs, camping and cabins – some with boat docks, and miles of hiking trails.

**Special Events:** Triathlons in May and September, Aspiring Anglers Junior Fishing Tournament in June.

**Location:** From U.S. 460 in Bedford County, take State Route 122 south to Route 608 east to Route 626 south.


## Staunton River Battlefield State Park

This park is a 300-acre Civil War historic site where a ragtag group of 700 Confederate old men and young boys beat the odds and held off an assault of 5,000 Union cavalry on a bridge of strategic importance to Gen. Lee's army, then under siege in Petersburg. Visit the Confederate earthworks or walk the historic bridge trail.

Two visitor centers feature 2,300 square feet of exhibits on the area's rich Civil War heritage, Native American archaeological investigations and electric energy production. The park includes a 1.2-mile self-guided trail through the battlefield and a three-quarter-mile nature trail with two wildlife observation towers overlooking wetlands.

**Location:** 18 miles east of South Boston. Take State Route 92 to Clover. Go about 5 miles to State Route 600 and turn left. Go approximately 3 miles and turn right on State Route 855.

## Staunton River State Park

 Tucked neatly into the heart of Virginia, about 25 miles from the North Carolina border, Staunton River offers much to families and outdoor enthusiasts, including 2,400 acres of woodlands, meadows and shoreline along the Dan and Staunton rivers.

Cabins built in the 1930's by the CCC and a campground offer overnight lodging. Access to Virginia's largest lake, Buggs Island Lake, offers freshwater fishing and boating, along with water skiing and many other aquatic activities.

The park also has an Olympic-sized pool

and wading pool, picnic shelters, a large playground, tennis and volleyball courts, several boat launches and more than 11 miles of multi-use trails. River Traders, just outside the park entrance, rents canoes, kayaks, jonboats and pontoon boats.

**Location:** 18 miles east of South Boston. Take U.S. 360, then State Route 344 for 10 miles.

## Twin Lakes State Park

 In the heart of central Virginia, this historic park offers a full array of cultural, environmental and recreational activities. Overnight accommodations include a campground, group camping and climate-controlled cabins. Enjoy swimming, fishing, boating and lakefront picnicking at Goodwin Lake. Hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians can take advantage of a neighboring multi-use trail in Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest. Cedar Crest Conference Center on Prince Edward Lake is available for family reunions, business and training meetings, wedding receptions and other gatherings.

**Location:** 5 miles southwest of Burkeville. Take U.S. 360 west to Prince Edward County and turn on Twin Lakes Road, State Route 621. State Route 621 changes to State Route 629, but the road remains Twin Lakes Road.



Staunton River State Park



Twin Lakes State Park





# Blue Ridge Highlands



Hungry Mother State Park

## Breaks Interstate Park

Straddling the Virginia-Kentucky border, the park features the largest canyon east of the Mississippi. Sometimes called the "Grand Canyon of the South," the park's spectacular beauty can be seen along its hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding trails, and while boating and fishing on Laurel Lake. In October, water is released from Flanagan Reservoir, creating world-class white water that draws people from around the world to the Russell Fork River. The park has a restaurant and conference center near the rim of the canyon as well as camping, 70 lodge rooms and four vacation cottages. For information or reservations, call (276) 865-4413 or 800-982-5122.

**Location:** Off VA-KY State Route 80

## Claytor Lake State Park

An ideal setting for swimming, camping, hiking and picnicking, Claytor Lake is widely known for sport fishing and boating. The park offers a full service marina

with docking slips, supplies, fuel, boat rentals and refreshments. The new Water's Edge Meeting Facility offers a beautiful setting for weddings or reunions and also has a gift shop. Several cabins and family lodges overlook the 4,500-acre lake offering a scenic retreat for visitors. The historic Howe House features interactive exhibits describing the ecology of the lake and the surrounding areas and hosts the park's seasonal programs.

**Special Events:** Celebration of Summer Festival in June, Fall Foliage Tours in October. New in 2007: Three family lodges, three-bedroom cabins and marina complex. Location: Interstate 81 to exit 101 near Dublin in Pulaski County.

## Grayson Highlands State Park

Near Mount Rogers and Whitetop Mountain, Virginia's two highest mountains, Grayson Highlands offers scenic views of alpine-like peaks more than 5,000 feet high. Facilities include a recently renovated visitor center, campgrounds and hiking trails leading to waterfalls and overlooks. Scenic horse trails and a horse camping area with electric and water hookups, stables and parking for trailers are available. The park provides year-round access to the Appalachian Trail and the Virginia Highlands Horse Trail.

**Special Events:** Wayne C. Henderson Music Festival and Guitar Competition the third Saturday in June, Grayson Highlands Fall Festival the last full weekend in September. Location: Interstate 81 to exit 45 in Marion, then State Route 16 to Volney and west on U.S. 58.

## Hungry Mother State Park



Long a family favorite known for its beautiful woodlands and placid 108-acre lake in the heart of the mountains, Hungry Mother features a sandy beach

with bathhouse, boats (fishing, canoe, kayak and paddle) and boat launch, universally accessible fishing pier, campgrounds, cabins, gift shop, visitor center, six-bedroom guest lodge that sleeps 15, hiking and biking trails, and a fantastic restaurant.

Hungry Mother is also home to the famous Hemlock Haven Conference Center, available for retreats, conferences and special events. Catering is available.

**Special Events:** Mountain Do Triathlon in April, Hungry Mother Arts and Crafts Festival in July, Fall Fear Mountain Bike Race in October. Location: 4 miles north of Marion on State Route 16.

## Natural Tunnel State Park

More than 850 feet long and as high as a 10-story building, Natural Tunnel was naturally carved through a limestone ridge over thousands of years. William Jennings Bryan called it the "Eighth Wonder of the World." Other scenic features include a wide chasm between steep stone walls surrounded by several pinnacles, or chimneys.

Facilities include a campground, picnic areas, amphitheater, visitor center and gift shop, historical blockhouse, swimming pool and chair lift to the tunnel floor. The park also offers cave tours and canoe trips on the Clinch River, as well as the Cove Ridge Center, which offers environmental education, conference facilities and overnight dorm accommodations.

**New in 2007:** Cabins and new campground. **Special Events:** "Pickin' in the Park" semi-monthly in the main season, monthly Candlelight Series January through April. Location: North from Weber City via U.S. 23, then 1 mile east on State Route 871.

## New River Trail State Park

New River Trail is a 57-mile linear park that follows an abandoned railroad right-



of-way. The park parallels the scenic and historic New River for 40 miles and passes through four counties. The gentle slope of the trail makes it great for visitors of all ages to hike, bike and ride horseback. Portions of the park provide horse, canoe and bike rentals, boat launches and gift shops. Fishing is popular, and primitive camping sites dot the trail. The Foster Falls village is home to authentic mustangs.

**Special Events:** Civil War Encampment featuring the 24th Virginia Infantry held in the Historic Foster Falls Village in July, the annual Foster Falls Festival of Lights and Holiday Hayride in December. **Location:** There are access points to the trail at Allisonia, Cliffview, Draper, Foster Falls, Fries, Galax, Ivanhoe and Xaloy (near Pulaski).

**Horse Trailer Parking:** Allisonia, Cliffview, Draper, Fries, Foster Falls and Xaloy.

## Shot Tower Historic State Park

Overlooking the New River, adjacent to New River Trail State Park, the shot tower was built nearly 200 years ago to make ammunition for firearms of the early settlers. Lead from the nearby Austinville Mines was melted in a kettle at the top of the 75-foot tower, poured through a sieve, and would fall through a shaft into a vat of water beneath the tower. The shot tower is a National Historic Landmark. Picnic facilities, restrooms and a hiking trail are available.

**Under Construction:** Repairs to the Shot Tower. Limited access to the tower during repairs.

**Location:** Interstate 77 to exit 24 and go north on State Route 52 for 2 miles.

## Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park

Dedicated in 1948, the Southwest Virginia Museum in Big Stone Gap chronicles the exploration and development of the region. The museum houses

a collection of items from the region. The collection was started by C. B. Slemp, who served in Congress from 1907 to 1923 and was President Coolidge's personal secretary.

A lovely Victorian parlor in the four-story mansion is available to rent for meetings and other small gatherings. The gift shop features many one-of-a-kind items. The quaint Poplar Hill Cottage is available for overnight accommodations.

**Special Events:** A Stitch in Time Quilt Show April through May 31, the Festival of Trees in mid-November through Dec. 31. **Location:** At 10 West First Street and Wood Avenue (Alt. Route 58), just off Route 23 in Big Stone Gap.

## Wilderness Road State Park

Purchased in 1993, Wilderness Road State Park offers approximately 200 acres for picnicking, hiking and living history programs. Visitors can enjoy the new visitor center, home to a theater presenting the film Wilderness Road, Spirit of A Nation, a frontier museum and a gift shop featuring unique regional gifts. The park also features the reconstructed Martin's Station, an outdoor living history museum, picnic shelters, a playground, and seasonal living history programs depicting life on Virginia's 1775 frontier. Visitors can hike the 12-mile Wilderness Road Trail linking the park with 50 miles of trails in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.

The late 1870s mansion is available for weddings, meetings and other special functions.

**Special Events:** Raid at Martin's Station in May, Wilderness Road Heritage Festival in October, a Frontier Christmas in December. **Location:** 5 miles west of Ewing, off U.S. 58, at the intersection of State Route 923.



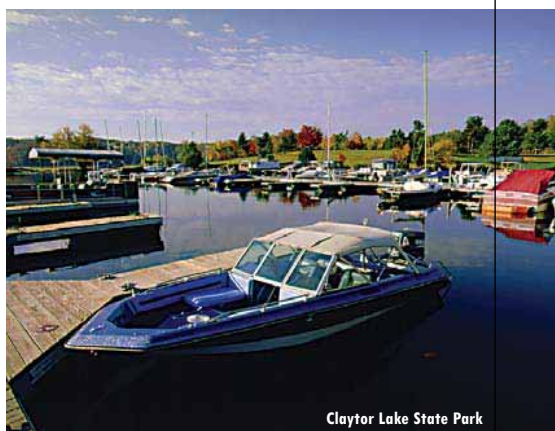
New River Trail State Park



Wilderness Road State Park



Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park



Claytor Lake State Park



# General Information

## An Important Part of a Healthy Lifestyle

Virginia State Parks are a tonic for the mind, body and spirit. Museums, visitor centers and nearby historic sites make state parks cultural treasures. The recreational opportunities in state parks are endless and easy to see — from swimming and boating to horseshoes and hiking, there's always something to do in a state park.

Parents play a big role in helping kids get up and get moving. Be a role model for your children. If they see you being physically active and having fun, they are more likely to be active and stay active throughout their lives. Involve the whole family in activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing or swimming. Focus on fun.

By providing a safe and attractive environment for physical activity, Virginia State Parks can play an essential part in your healthy lifestyle.

## Special Discounts

With everything we offer, Virginia State Parks are still among the most affordable and economical vacation destinations around. Special discount passes and annual passes for parking, boat launching and swimming are for sale at parks statewide. Senior discount passes are also available. Virginia residents receive a 10 percent discount on cabin rates.

## Park Accessibility

Virginia State Parks strive to make each park as barrier-free as possible. Parks with facilities for people with disabilities are designated in the chart at the end of this booklet. Contact the Reservation Center or individual parks for more information before your trip.

## Equipment Rentals

Many parks rent canoes, rowboats, paddleboats, kayaks, hydro-bikes and mountain bikes. Horse concessions operate at Shenandoah River, Sky Meadows and New River Trail state parks.

## Cabins and Campsites

Virginia State Parks provide comfortable and economical overnight accommodations, with more than 200 climate-controlled cabins and more than 1,600 campsites, ranging from primitive sites to developed sites with electric and water hookups. Many cabins are available all year. While most campgrounds are open March 1 to the first Monday in December, primitive campsites are available year-round.

## Cabins and Family Lodges

**Climate-controlled cabins** are available at Bear Creek Lake, Chippokes Plantation, Claytor Lake, Douthat, Fairy Stone, First Landing, Hungry Mother, James River, Lake Anna, Occoneechee, Staunton River, Smith Mountain Lake, Twin Lakes and Westmoreland state parks. Cabin sizes and sleeping arrangements vary by park.

**All cabins have kitchens and bathrooms with a shower.** Cabin furnishings and equipment include rustic furniture, microwave, refrigerator, oven, dishes, cooking utensils, silverware, kitchen towels and glassware. Bath towels and bedroom linens, including mattress covers, pillows, blankets, sheets and pillow cases, also are included.

All cabins except those at Chippokes Plantation and the Martin Cottage at Twin Lakes have fireplaces. Cabins at Smith Mountain Lake have wood stoves.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the standard cabin rental period is one week. Rentals for less than a week during this period can be made no more than 30 days prior to desired occupancy based on availability. There is a two-night minimum stay.

For larger family groups and retreats, family lodges are available at Douthat, Fairy Stone, Hungry Mother and Westmoreland, and new family lodges open this year in Occoneechee, Bear Creek Lake, Claytor Lake, James River and Kiptopeke. They are rented only as single units, and individual rooms are not available.

**Check-in time is 3 p.m.; check-out time is 10 a.m. Check-in days during the week-long requirement vary, so contact the Reservation Center. All reservations are subject to availability. Cabins cannot be reserved for more than 14 days in a row.**

In addition to cabins, special facilities include:

**Bel Air Mansion and Guest House** These two upscale, overnight facilities in Belle Isle State Park are perfect for family reunions or picturesque weddings. Furnished with antique reproductions, the mansion comfortably sleeps six, and the simply furnished guest house sleeps eight.

**Douthat State Park Main Lodge** Accommodates up to 15 people.

**Creasey Lodge at Douthat State Park** A one-story frame lodge with five bedrooms, one with a double bed, and four rooms with two sets of bunk beds each, can accommodate 18 guests.

**Fairy Stone Lodge** A one-story frame lodge with five bedrooms, two with queen beds. Three bedrooms have two sets of bunk beds each, and the lodge accommodates up to 16 guests.

**Hungry Mother Lodge** A mountaintop log lodge with a beautiful view of the park. The five-bedroom lodge accommodates up to 15 and must be seen to be appreciated.



**Cove Ridge Center at Natural Tunnel State Park** Available for reunions, conferences or business meetings, the two attached dormitories can accommodate up to 30 each. Overnight guests have free use of adjacent swimming pool during normal operating hours. Reservations are handled by the park at (276) 940-2696.

**The Potomac River Retreat at Westmoreland State Park** sleeps 16 and has five baths, two kitchens, two dining rooms, six bedrooms, a large sunroom and adjacent boat docks.

**Poplar Hill Cottage at the Southwest Virginia Museum** This quaint, garden-themed cottage is the perfect getaway in the mountains. Furnished with reproduction furniture, the charming cottage is in the historic Poplar Hill neighborhood, adjacent to other fine homes. The cottage comfortably sleeps six and two full baths. Pets are not allowed.

**Camping Opportunities:** **Pop-ups** are available for rent at Belle Isle, Chippokes Plantation, Lake Anna and Pocahontas state parks. **Camping lodges** are available at Belle Isle, Fairy Stone, Holliday Lake, Kiptopeke and Staunton River state parks, with additional camping lodges under construction at Claytor Lake, Bear Creek Lake, Grayson Highlands, Lake Anna, Occoneechee, James River and Smith Mountain Lake state parks. **Camping cabins** are available at Westmoreland and Pocahontas state parks. Kiptopeke State Park offers a unique **yurt**, as well as **camping trailers**.

Developed and group campsites have picnic tables, grills and access to bathhouses. Primitive campsites generally have fire grills, picnic tables, vault toilets and non-potable water.

Primitive hike-in camping is available at False Cape, New River Trail and Sky Meadows. False Cape prohibits open fires and provides pit toilets and picnic tables. Water at the park is available only at False Cape's Barbour Hill area.

Primitive drive-in camping is available at James River, and hike-in and canoe-in sites are available at Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River, James River and New River Trail state parks. Equestrian camping sites also are available at New River Trail, Grayson Highlands and James River state parks.

The maximum camping period is 14 days. Campers cannot be assured of access to their reserved sites before the reservation start time of 4 p.m. on the scheduled day of arrival. Check-out is 3 p.m.

Reservations for summer weekend camping should be made as early as possible. Specific campsites are assigned upon arrival at the park, not when the reservation is made, with the exceptions of False Cape and New River Trail. Unreserved campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, but reservations are strongly recommended.

**Note:** False Cape State Park requires reservations. Campers must receive information about camping at the park via mail, e-mail or fax before their stay. Conditions are primitive and are recommended for experienced campers only. Please call the Reservation Center for details.

## Meeting and Event Facilities

Weddings, reunions, meetings, conferences, retreats — Virginia State Parks are perfect for your next event.

A state parks reservation counselor can assist with planning a special event in a state park.

The nationally acclaimed **Hemlock Haven Conference Center at Hungry Mother State Park** in southwestern Virginia offers overnight accommodations and meeting space for groups as large as 375 with many special amenities.

**Cedar Crest Conference Center at Twin Lakes State Park** in central Virginia offers meeting space for up to 90 as well as teleconferencing capabilities in a picturesque setting. To make conference center reservations at Cedar Crest, call (434) 767-2398. A certified meeting professional can provide personalized planning assistance for special events.

**The Cove Ridge Center at Natural Tunnel** is ideal for training workshops, meetings and retreats. Its auditorium accommodates up to 100, and two other rooms can be reserved for groups of up to 24. Two six-room dormitories can sleep up to 48 overnight guests and are just a few feet from the swimming pool.

**The Water's Edge Meeting Facility at Claytor Lake State Park** offers a beautiful setting for weddings, reunions or other special events. The large meeting room accommodates up to 125 and overlooks the lake and provides a scenic view of the water's edge.

**At Westmoreland State Park**, Murphy Hall will accommodate up to 65 people for meetings or receptions and offer audiovisual equipment, a warming kitchen for catered events and a break-out room.

**The Bear Creek Meeting Hall** is brand new and open for business May 1. It can accommodate up to 65 people for meetings, wedding receptions and other special events.

Meeting facilities are also found at Belle Isle, Fairy Stone, Natural Tunnel and Pocahontas state parks and the Southwest Virginia Museum.

The Jones-Stewart Mansion at Chippokes Plantation State Park, Bel Air Mansion at Belle Isle State Park and Karlan Mansion at Wilderness Road State Park are three historic, picturesque locations for weddings and family reunions.





# General Information

## VIRGINIA LOVES CAMPERS

Virginia Loves Campers is a partnership among Virginia State Parks, the Virginia Tourism Corp. and the Virginia Campground Association. Our mountains, lakes, Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean beaches make Virginia one of America's best camping destinations. This partnership helps us better serve and inform campers of the unparalleled natural, cultural and recreational resources in our state parks and across our great Commonwealth. For a comprehensive list of all of Virginia's campgrounds and camping opportunities, visit [www.virginia.org/camping](http://www.virginia.org/camping). Also visit [www.virginiacampgrounds.org](http://www.virginiacampgrounds.org) for Virginia Campground Association information.

### Reservations

Reservations for camping, cabins and picnic shelters can be made by calling the Virginia State Parks Reservation Center weekdays at **1-800-933-PARK (7275)**. Reservations can be made up to 11 months in advance.

The Reservation Center stops taking reservations for the weekend at close of business Thursday

Campground, cabin and picnic shelter reservations can also be made online at [www.dcr.virginia.gov](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov). Online reservations must be made a day in advance, and there is a nominal convenience fee for the service. Availability can be checked online at no charge.

Payments must be made in full to the Reservation Center within 14 days after the reservation is made or prior to arrival. The reservation counselor will give a payment due date when the reservation is made. Online reservations must be paid by credit card when the reservation is made.

Payments can be made with American Express, Discover, VISA or MasterCard over the phone by the card-holder only or by check or money order.

Checks and money orders should be made payable to Virginia State Parks and mailed to: Virginia State Parks Reservation Center, P.O. Box 1895, Richmond, VA 23218-1895. (For a check from a foreign country, please show "U.S. Funds" after the amount.)

Payments can also be made in person at the

State Parks Reservation Center, 9960 Mayland Dr., Richmond, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5p.m. Cash payments can not be accepted.

### Be a Contributor

Virginians can make a tax-deductible donation to their parks, both state and local, and to their natural areas by contributing all or part of their state tax refund to the Open Space Recreation and Conservation Fund. See your Virginia state tax return form for more information.

### Be a Volunteer

We value the commitment and enthusiasm of volunteers and will work to find a position to fit their interests, schedule and experience. Thousands of volunteers contributed more than 150,000 volunteer hours last year.

The opportunities for volunteering in a park are many and the rewards are great. For more information, e-mail the volunteer coordinator at [vspvolunteer@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:vspvolunteer@dcr.virginia.gov), contact any state park or call 1-800-933-PARK.



## Cancellation Policy

### Campsites

Cancellations may be made by calling the Reservation Center during operating hours or the park when the Reservation Center is closed. A \$10 per-site cancellation fee will be deducted from paid fees. Cancellation fees also apply to horse stalls. Group camping areas and buddy sites have a \$30 cancellation fee. Reservation changes must be made through the Reservation Center before the start of the reserved stay. Early departures once a stay has begun will be charged a penalty of one night.

### Cabins, Lodges, Yurts and

Before the scheduled check-in time, cancellations may be made by calling the Reservation Center or the park when the Reservation Center is closed. Cancellations made a month prior to the scheduled arrival date will be charged a \$20 cancellation fee. Cancellations made less than a month before the scheduled arrival date will be charged \$20 per night. The cancellation fee also



## Careers in Virginia State Parks

Virginia State Parks rangers are needed across the Commonwealth. As we build new parks and facilities, the need for qualified rangers will only grow.

Park Rangers routinely work outside, serve millions of members of the visiting public, and help to preserve and protect Virginia's natural resources. Other positions in state parks focus on environmental education, maintenance, law enforcement, natural resource management, sales and management.

For information about a career in Virginia State Parks, visit the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation website [www.dcr.virginia.gov](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov).

## Pets

Pets are welcome in Virginia State Parks but must be on a leash no longer than six feet, or in an enclosed area at all times. A fee must be paid for pets staying overnight in cabins and at campgrounds. Pets aren't allowed in the yurt at Kiptopeke State Park. Pets are denied access through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge to False Cape State Park April 1 through Oct. 31.



## Camping Trailers

applies to early departures and reducing the number of nights of the reservation. The two-night minimum is not refunded. There is no charge to move a stay to another time or park, but this must be done through the Reservation Center and prior to official check-in time. Contact the Reservation Center for a complete description of the refund policy.

## Natural Area Preserves



Birding & Wildlife Watching	Boardwalk	Canoe Trail	Hiking	Observation Deck	Parking	Self-Guided Trails	Toilets
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### SHENANDOAH

1	Goshen Pass, Rockbridge County	•			•		•	•
2	Poor Mountain, Roanoke	•			•		•	

### NORTHERN VIRGINIA

3	Bull Run Mountains, Fauquier and Prince William Counties***	•			•		•	
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### TIDEWATER/EASTERN SHORE

4	Bethel Beach, Mathews County	•					•	
5	Bush Mill Stream, Northumberland County	•			•	•	•	•
6	Dameron Marsh, Northumberland County	•	•			•	•	
7	Hickory Hollow, Lancaster County*	•			•		•	•
8	Hughlett Point, Northumberland County	•	•		•	•	•	•
9	New Point Comfort, Mathews County**	•	•			•	•	
10	North Landing River, Virginia Beach (closed 2007)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
11	Cumberland Marsh, New Kent County**	•	•		•	•	•	•
12	Cape Charles, Northampton County****	•	•		•		•	
13	Savage Neck Dunes, Northampton County	•			•		•	

### CENTRAL VIRGINIA

14	Chub Sandhill, Sussex County	•			•		•	
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### BLUE RIDGE HIGHLAND

15	Buffalo Mountain, Floyd County	•			•		•	
16	Pinnacle, Russell County	•			•		•	•
17	Grassy Hill, Franklin County	•			•		•	•

\* Owned by Northern Neck Audubon Society

\*\*\* Owned by Virginia Outdoors Foundation


\*\* Owned by The Nature Conservancy

\*\*\*\* Owned by Northampton County

*In 1990 DCR began managing a system of special lands known as Natural Area Preserves. These lands provide suitable habitat for rare or declining plant and animal species, natural communities, some types of which are found nowhere else on earth. The preserves serve as a link between our busy, modern world and the natural wilderness of the past.*

*DCR works hard to restore and maintain these special places and protect them from inappropriate human disturbance. Still, there is much to be learned and enjoyed in these exceptional, natural settings. That's why 17 of the system's preserves have public access facilities of some type (see chart above for details). Learn more about Natural Area Preserves by visiting [www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/preserve.htm](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dnh/preserve.htm) or call DCR's Natural Heritage Program at (804) 786-7951.*



VIRGINIA STATE PARKS		Blue Ridge Highlands							Shenandoah			Cumberland				
	Breaks Interstate Park	Claytor Lake	Grayson Highlands	Hungry Mother	Natural Tunnel	New River Trail/Shot Tower	Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park	Wilderness Road	Douthat	Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River	Sky Meadows	Bear Creek Lake	Fairy Stone	Holliday Lake	James River	Ocoonechee
Boating:																
Launching	•	• M		•		• CT			•	CT		•	•	•	•	•
Rentals	PB	RB/MT		JB/C PB/K		C/JB K/T			JB/C PB/K			RB/C PB	RB/C K/PB	RB/C K/PB	C/K T	MT
Motor Boats Permitted		•				•									•	•
Fishing	FW	FW/FP	FW	FW	FW	FW			FW/FP	FW	FW	FW	FW	FW	FW	FW
Cabins	•	•		•			•		•			•	•		•	•
Camping:																
Campground	•	• EW	• EW	• EW/S	• EW	• PC/H CI			• EW	• CI/H	• PC/H	• EW	• EW	• EW	• EW	• EW
Group Camping	•	BP	•	BP	•	• PC/H		BP	•	•	• PC/H		•		BP	BP
Showers	•	•	•	•	•				•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Dump Station	•	•	•	•	•				•			•	•	•	•	•
Camp Store		•	•						•		•			•		
Conference/Meeting Space	•	•		•	•		•	•	•			•	•			
Environmental Education Center				•	•										•	
Facilities for the Disabled	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Gift Shops	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
Parking and/or Admission Fee	PF/AF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	AF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF
Picnicking	• R	• R	• R	• R	• R	• R	•	• R	• R	• R	•	• R	• R	• R	• R	• R
Playgrounds	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•	•	•		•
Restaurant	•			•					•							
Snack Bar	•	•		•	•	•			•			•	•	•		V
Swimming and Bathhouses	• P	•		•	• P				•			•	•	•		
Trails:																
Biking	•		• MB/B	• B	• MB	• B		•	• MB/B	•		A/MB B	•	A/MB	• MB	• B
Equestrian	•		•			• HR		•		•	• D	A	•	A	•	•
Universally Accessible		•		•	•	•	•		•		•		•		•	
Hiking	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Visitor Center	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•		•			•

Central VA						Northern VA			Tidewater and Eastern Shore							
Pocahontas	Sailor's Creek Battlefield	Smith Mountain Lake	Staunton River Battlefield	Staunton River	Twin Lakes	Lake Anna	Leesylvania	Mason Neck	Belle Isle	Caledon Natural Area	Chippokes Plantation	False Cape	First Landing	Kiptopeke	Westmoreland	York River
•		•		•	•	•	• M	• CT	•				•	•	• M	•
RB/C K/PB		RB/C MT/PB			RB/C PB			C/K	MT/C K						RB/K PB	RB/C PB/K
		•		•		•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•
FW		FW/FP		FW	FW	FW	FW/FP	FW	SW/FP		FW	FW/SW	SW	SW/FP	FW/SW FP	FW/SW FP
		•		•	•	•			•		•		•	• RT/Y	•	
• EW		• EW		• EW	• EW	• EW			• EW		• EW	• PC/H	• EW	• EW/S	• EW	
•	BP	BP	BP	BP	•	BP	BP	BP	BP	BP	•	• PC/H	•	•	•	
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PF		PF		PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF	PF/AF		PF	PF	PF	PF
• R	•	• R	• R	• R	• R	• R	• R	• R	• R	• R	• R	•	• R	• R	• R	• R
•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•
•		•		•	•	•	•				•		•	V	•	V
• P		•		• P	•	•					• P	•	•	•	• P	
• D		•	• B	•	A	•		• B	• B		•	•	• B	•	•	• D/B
•			•	•	A	•			•		• D					• D
•			•				•	•	•		•		•		•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•		•	•			•	•	•	UD	•	•		•		•	•

Legend

- A** Access to Trail on Adjacent Land
- AF** Admission Fee
- B** Bike Rentals
- BP** By Permit
- C** Canoe Rentals
- CI** Canoe-In Camping
- CT** Cartop Boat Launch
- D** Dedicated
- EW** Electrical and Water Hookups
- FP** Fishing Pier
- FW** Freshwater Fishing
- H** Hike-In Camping
- HR** Horse Rentals
- JB** Jonboat Rentals
- K** Kayak Rentals
- M** Marina/Boat Dock/Fuel
- MB** Mountain Bikes Only
- MT** Motor Boat Rentals
- P** Pool Swimming
- PB** Paddleboat Rentals
- PC** Primitive Camping
- PF** Parking Fee
- R** Picnic Reservations Available
- RB** Rowboat Rentals
- RT** Rental Trailers
- S** Sewer Hookups
- SW** Saltwater Fishing
- T** Tube Rentals
- UD** Under Development
- V** Vending Machines
- Y** Yurt



## DCR's Mission

*The Department of Conservation and Recreation works with Virginians to conserve, protect, and enhance their lands and improve the quality of the Chesapeake Bay and our rivers and streams, promotes the stewardship and enjoyment of natural, cultural and outdoor recreational resources, and insures the safety of Virginia's dams.*



Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

State Parks • Soil & Water Conservation • Natural Heritage  
Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance • Land Conservation  
Outdoor Recreation Planning • Dam Safety & Floodplains

203 Governor St., Suite 306  
Richmond, VA 23219



## Virginia State Parks

### Shenandoah

1. Douthat State Park • (540) 862-8100
2. Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. Shenandoah River State Park • (540) 622-6840
3. Sky Meadows State Park • (540) 592-3556

### Northern Virginia

4. Lake Anna State Park • (540) 854-5503
5. Leesylvania State Park • (703) 670-0372
6. Mason Neck State Park • (703) 339-2385

### Tidewater and Eastern Shore

7. Belle Isle State Park • (804) 462-5030
8. Caledon Natural Area • (540) 663-3861
9. Chippokes Plantation State Park • (757) 294-3625
10. False Cape State Park • (757) 426-7128
11. First Landing State Park • (757) 412-2300
12. Kiptopeke State Park • (757) 331-2267
13. Westmoreland State Park • (804) 493-8821
14. York River State Park • (757) 566-3036

### Central

15. Bear Creek Lake State Park • (804) 492-4410
16. Fairy Stone State Park • (276) 930-2424
17. Holliday Lake State Park • (434) 248-6308
18. James River State Park • (434) 933-4355
19. Occoneechee State Park • (434) 374-2210
20. Pocahontas State Park • (804) 796-4255
21. Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historic State Park • (434) 392-3435
22. Smith Mountain Lake State Park • (540) 297-6066
23. Staunton River Battlefield State Park • (434) 454-4312
24. Staunton River State Park • (434) 572-4623
25. Twin Lakes State Park • (434) 392-3435
- Cedar Crest Conference Center • (434) 767-2398

### Blue Ridge Highlands

26. Breaks Interstate Park • (276) 865-4413
27. Claytor Lake State Park • (540) 643-2500
28. Grayson Highlands State Park • (276) 579-7092
29. Hungry Mother State Park • (276) 781-7400
- Hemlock Haven Conference Center • (276) 781-7425
30. Natural Tunnel State Park • (276) 940-2674
- Cove Ridge Center • (276) 940-2696
31. New River Trail State Park • (276) 699-6778
32. Shot Tower Historical State Park • (276) 699-6778
33. Southwest Virginia Museum Historical State Park • (276) 523-1322
34. Wilderness Road State Park • (276) 445-3065